



Wellington Park & Mill Brook Corridor Revitalization Project - Phase 3

Town of Arlington, MA

Public Meeting #2

June 10, 2020

Meeting Objectives

- Review the public feedback submitted during and after Public Meeting #1
- Respond to a more detailed site plan

Meeting Expectations

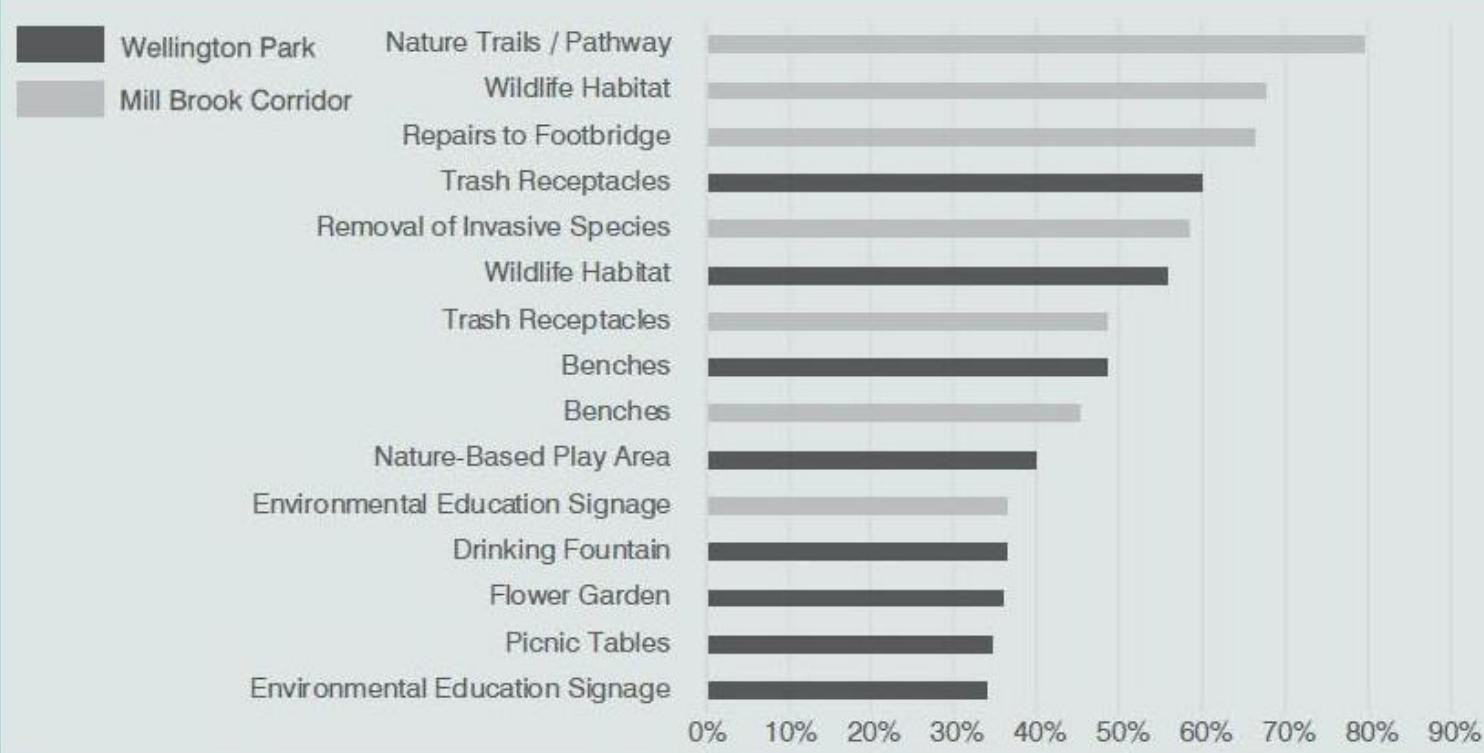
- All participants except for presenters will be muted
- Arlington, MyRWA, and Hatch will give a ~30 minute presentation
- After presentation, members of the public will be asked to “raise hand” or dial “*9” to indicate that they would like to provide public comment
- Members of the public will be systematically unmuted and provide comment
- Public comments can be up to 3 minutes long
- Please be mindful not to reiterate other comments, but provide new feedback
- If you have more feedback and comments after the meeting, please email esullivan@town.arlington.ma.us

Wellington Park & Mill Brook Corridor Revitalization Goals

1. Complete a community-driven design for Wellington Park that will open up the Brook and provide new amenities
2. Build awareness and support for the concept of a Mill Brook Linear Park and provide a template for enhancement and restoration of other sections of this corridor
3. Use environmentally sustainable planning and engineering approaches for natural resources management

2018 Community Input

Desired New Amenities



Design Feedback

84 completed surveys



Wellington Park: Share your input!

Please share your ideas on initial design concepts for Phase 3 of the Mill Brook and Wellington Park Revitalization project. The feedback collected will inform what will be built starting in fall 2020. Please fill out the survey by MONDAY, MAY 4, 2020.

For more background on the project visit mysticriver.org/millbrook. Email amber.christoffersen@mysticriver.org or ESullivan@town.arlington.ma.us with any questions.

For decades, the Town of Arlington and other community stakeholders have been exploring the feasibility of a linear park along Mill Brook, an important ecological and historical feature. Since 2018, the Mystic River Watershed Association and the Town have been leading a design and planning process to increase the Brook's visibility and accessibility and improve recreational amenities in Wellington Park. In 2019, the Town used a state MVP grant to build a new path, boardwalk and removed invasive plants to create a flood storage area with native plantings. A second phase of construction in 2020 will add additional park amenities.

* Required

Have you participated in a public meeting for this project in the past?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure



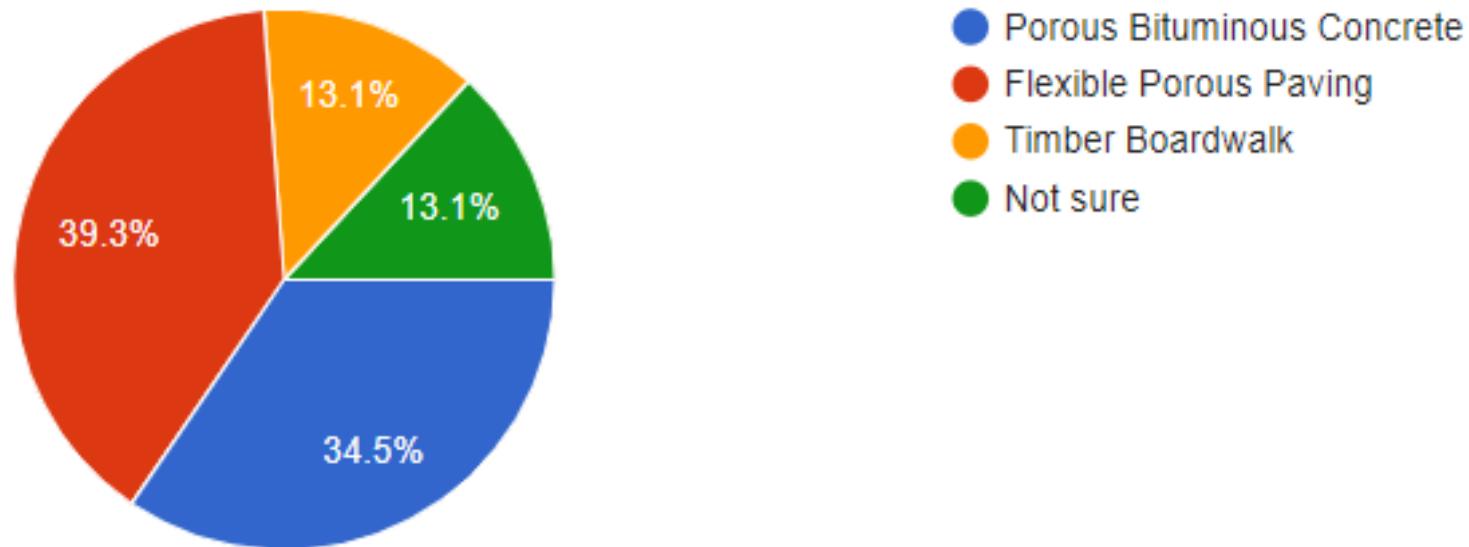
Question 1: How do you move through the park?



Question 2: Which pathway type do you prefer?

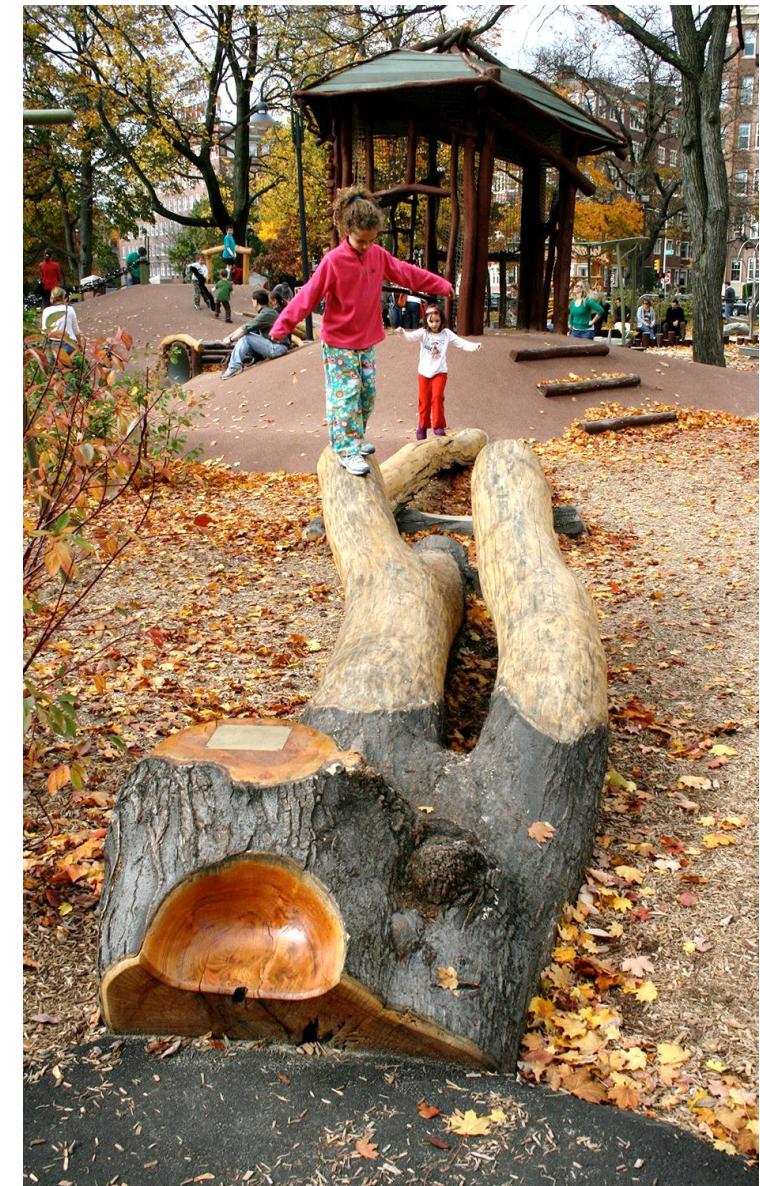
Which paving surface do you prefer?

84 responses



Naturalistic Seating and Exploration Area - Examples

- Area for seating and unstructured play



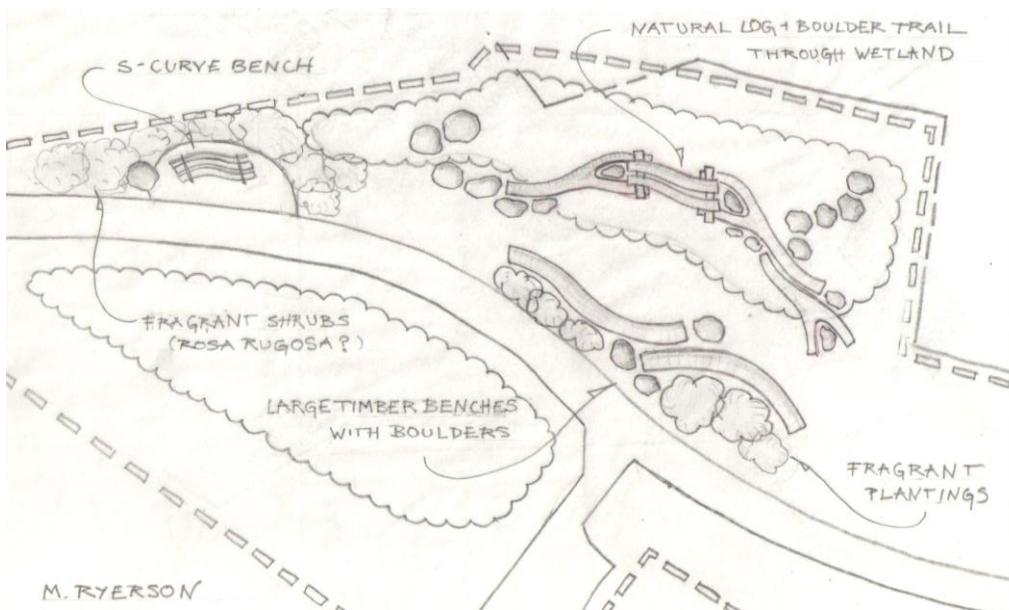
Naturalistic Seating and Exploration Area - Prototypes



Naturalistic Seating and Exploration Area

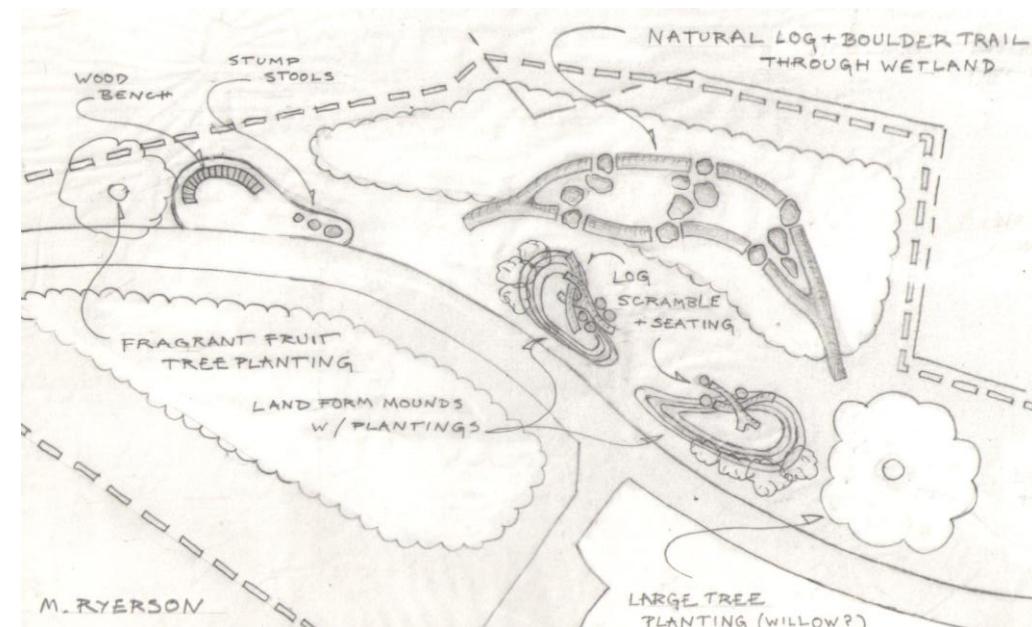
Design 1 Elements

1. S-Curve Bench
2. Large Timber Bench with Boulders
3. Natural Log and Boulder Trail



Design 2 Elements

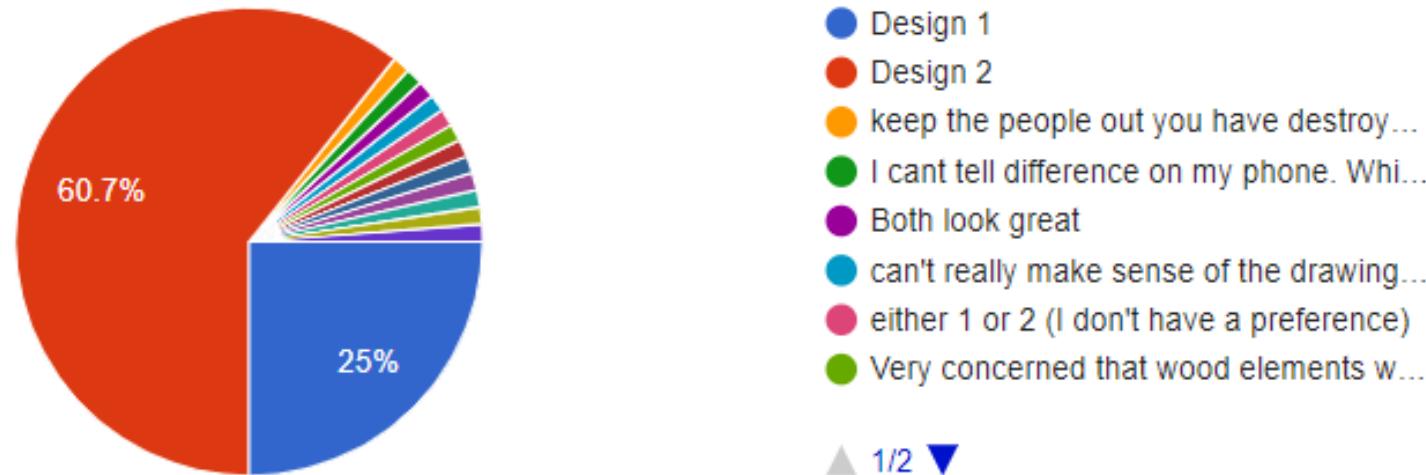
1. Stump Stools
2. Wood Bench
3. Log Scramble Seating
4. Natural Log and Boulder Trail



Question 3: Which naturalistic exploration design do you prefer?

Which naturalistic seating and exploration design do you prefer?

84 responses



Additional Comments:

- Concern about these being vandalized
- People prefer backs to the benches
- People seem to like design 2 because it is a bit more varied, in general we could scale these down

Question 4: Which mowed lawn areas should be planted native communities?

Additional Comments

Scale back plantings so that they can be maintained

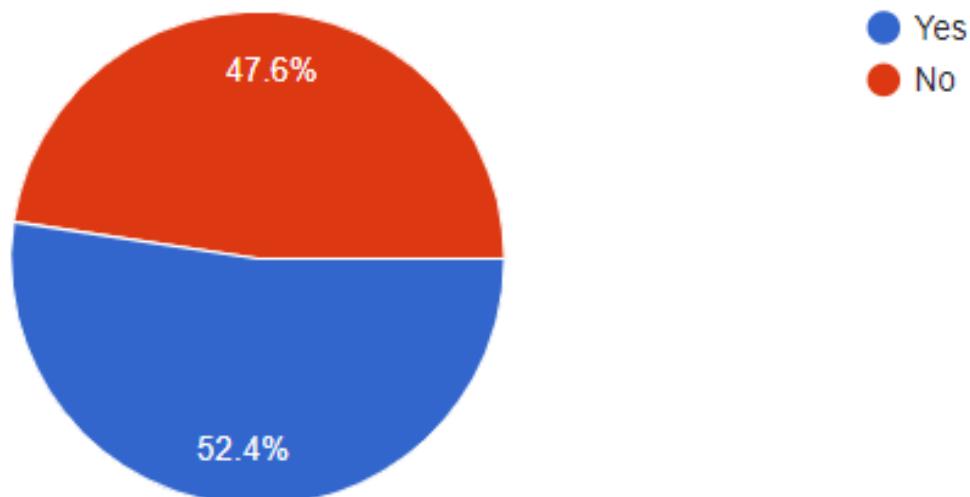
People prefer plantings at edge, keep some open lawn areas



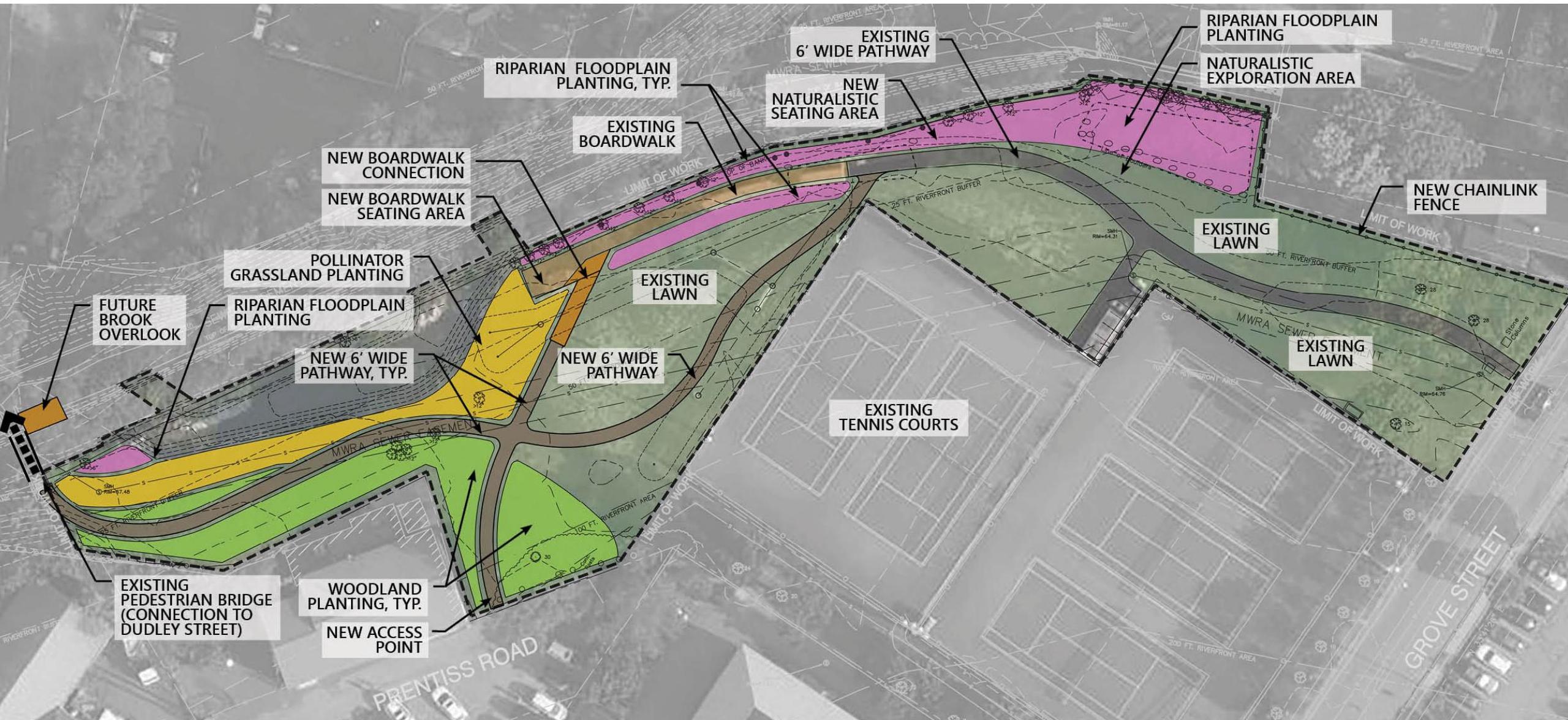
Question 5: Do you use the pedestrian bridge?

Have you used the pedestrian bridge before?

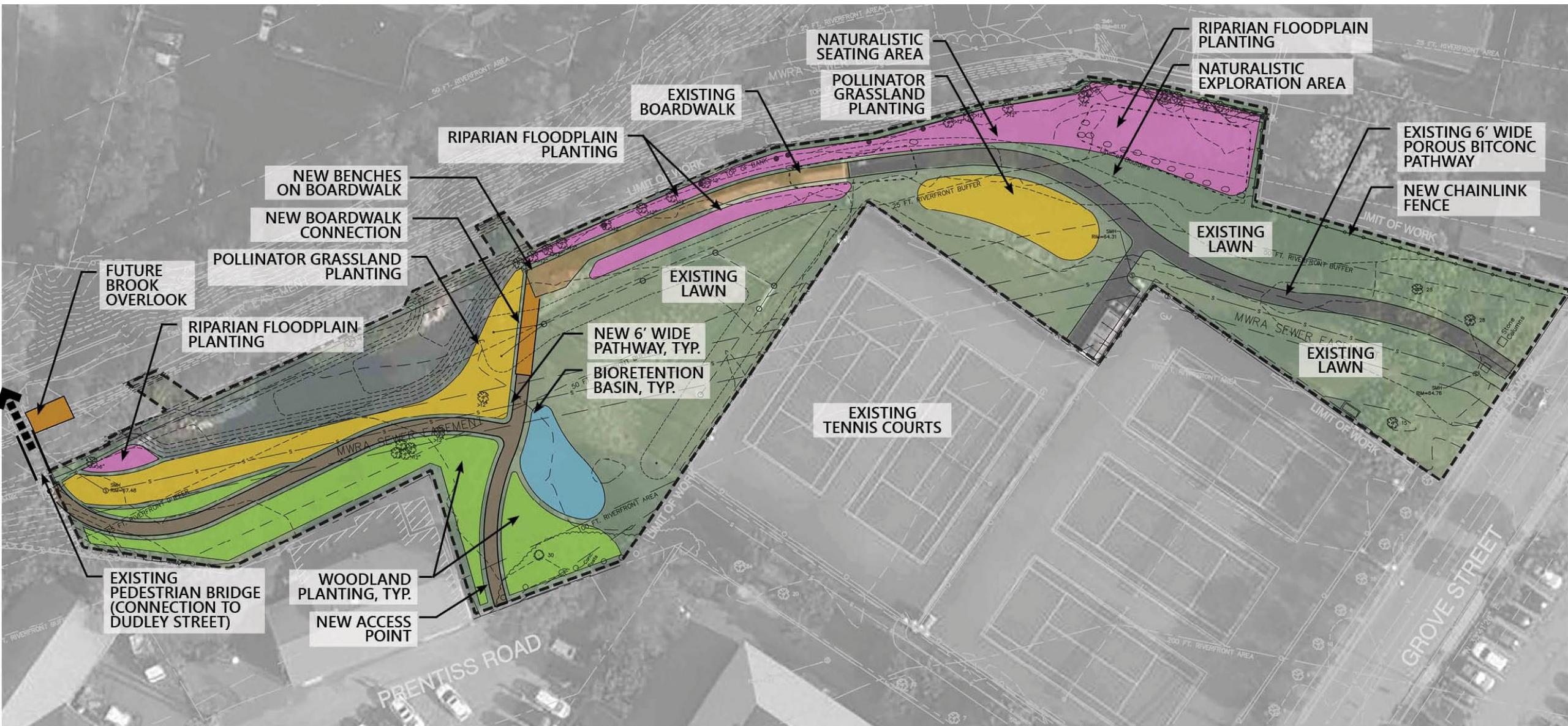
84 responses



Concept A



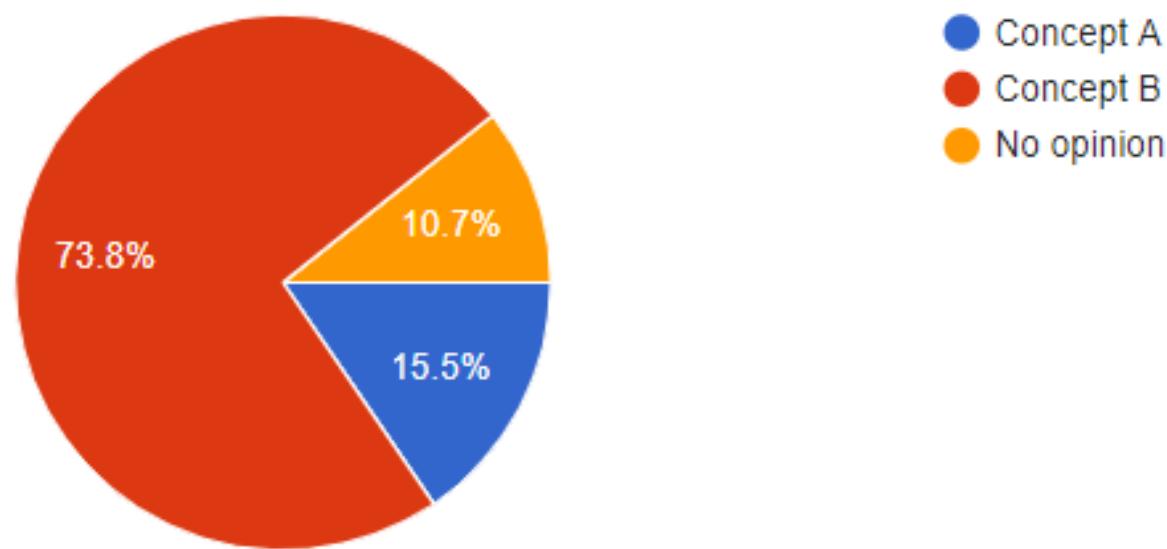
Concept B



Question 6: Which design do you prefer?

Which design do you prefer?

84 responses



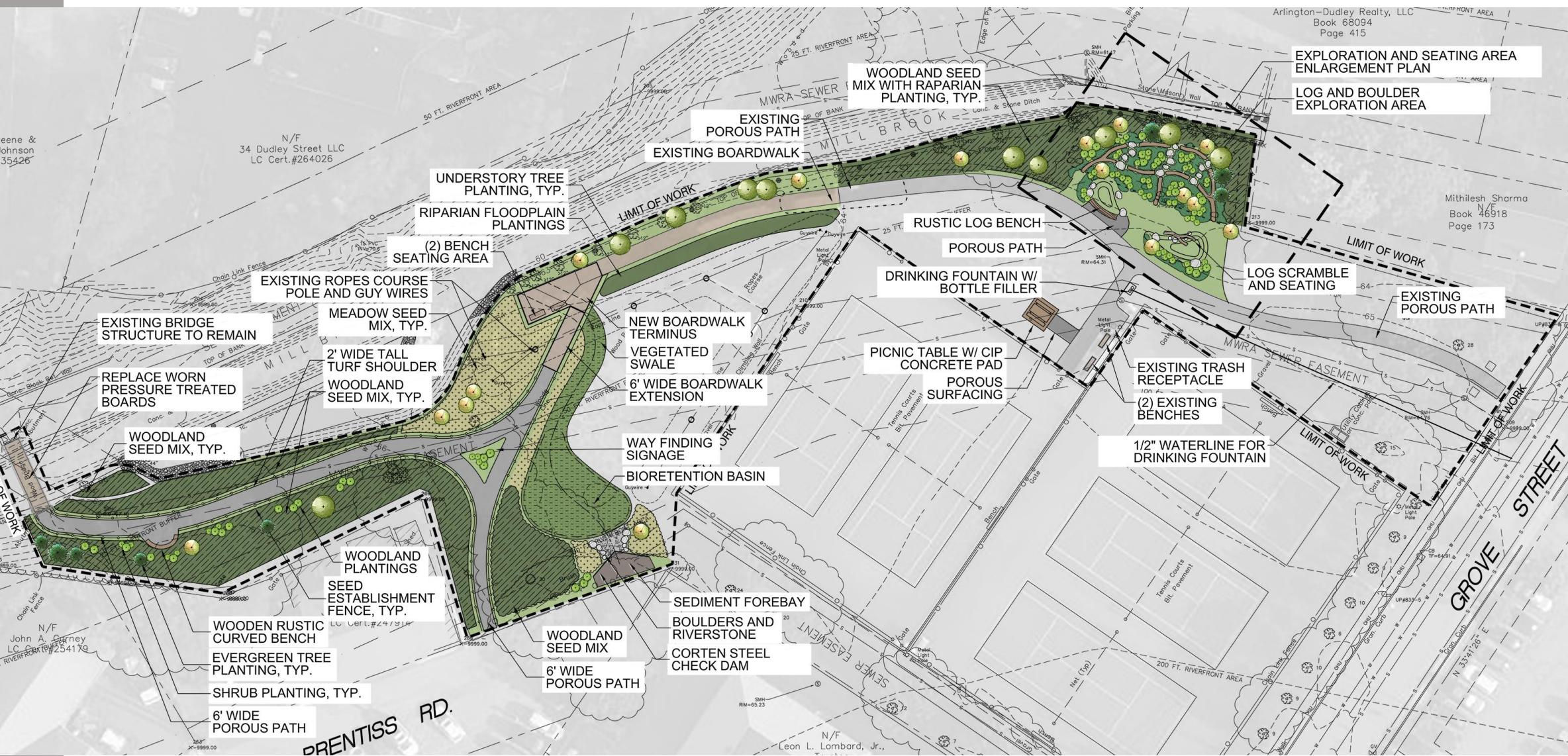
What do you like most about the design? What is missing?

- **Why people like Option B** (~50 comments similar to these)
 - “More natural and less mowed areas.”
 - “Nature-focused”
 - “I like additional native plantings and more floodwater retention features. I'd also appreciate additional trees.”
 - “Less formal.”
 - “Concept B seems more nature-friendly.”
 - “Essentially I prefer the most natural approach - unpaved paths, more natural plantings and habitat, less formal furniture.”
- **Other Comments**
 - “Am concerned with the long term maintenance requirements. Volunteers can only do some things.”
 - “Tight area - less is more.”
 - “I think that the naturalistic seating and exploration areas will be the biggest attraction

Existing Conditions



Draft Design



Naturalistic Seating and Exploration Area



Seating and Exploration Area – Elements

- Landscape boulders



- Black locust logs



- Rustic bench



Seating and Exploration Area – Elements

- Black locust logs

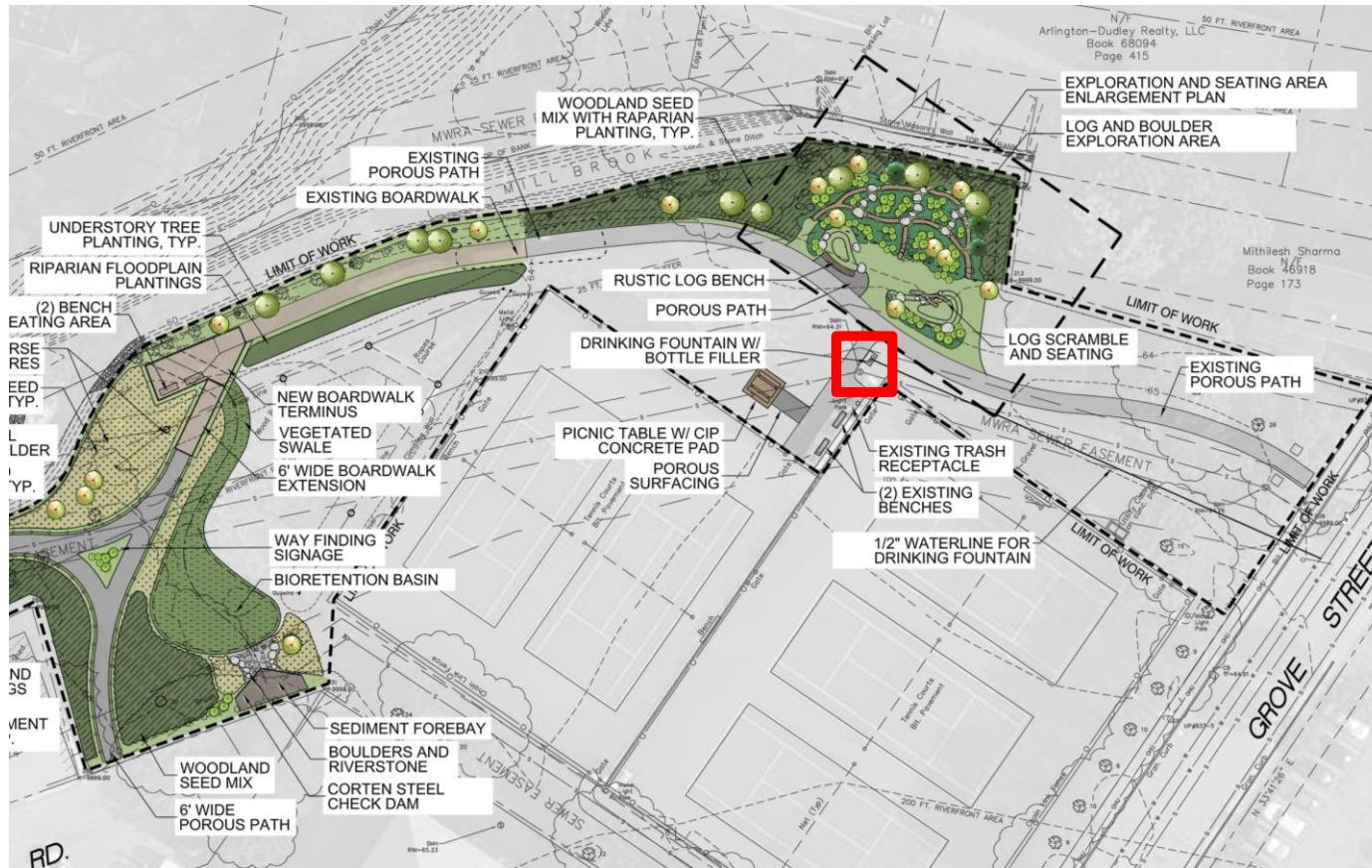


- Vegetated landform mounds



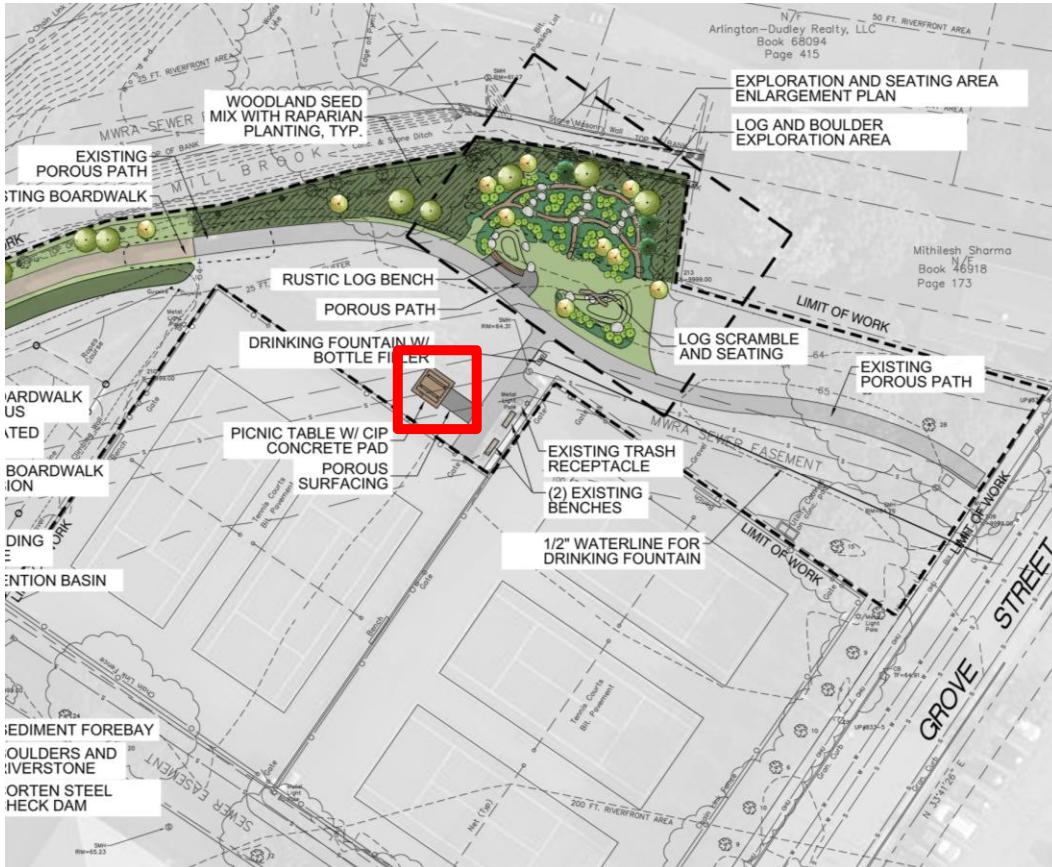
Site Improvements

- Hydration station



Site Improvements

- Picnic table (near tennis court entrance)



Site Improvements

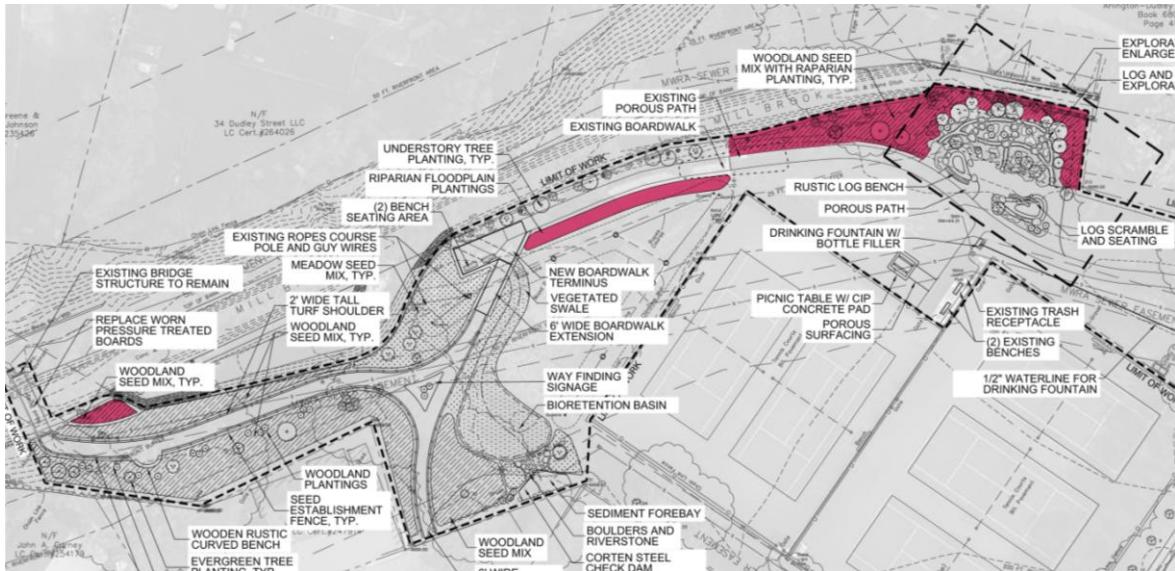
- Way finding signage



Riparian Floodplain Community

Canopy Trees

1. *Acer rubrum* (red maple)
2. *Quercus bicolor* (swamp white oak)
3. *Betula nigra* (river birch)
4. *Ulmus americana* (American elm)



Riparian Floodplain Community

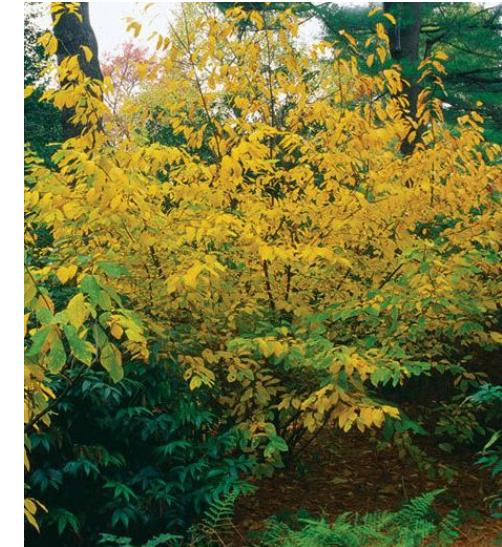
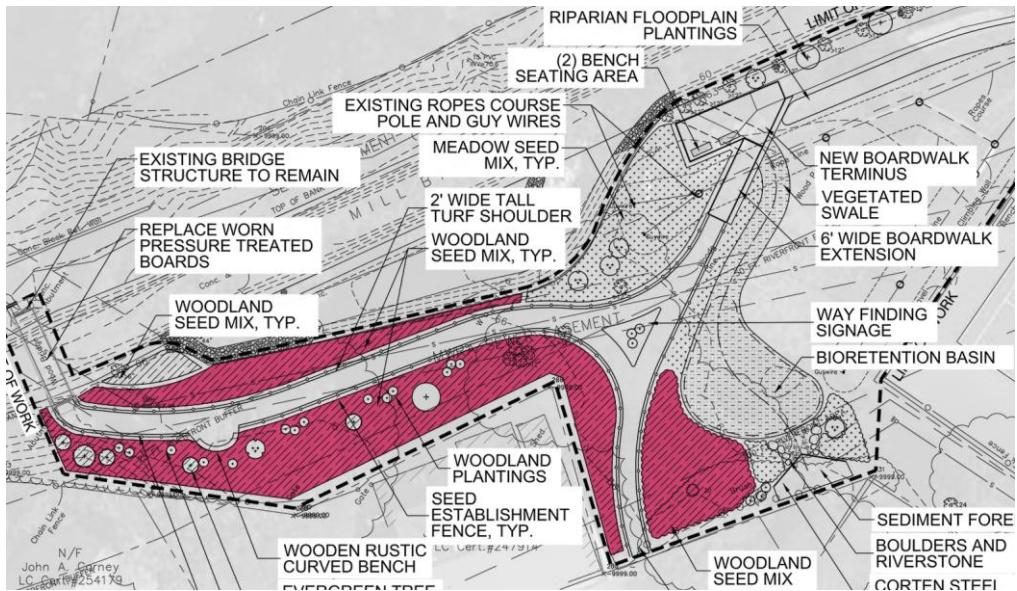
Shrubs and Groundcovers

1. ***Lindera benzoin***
(spicebush)
2. ***Cornus amomum***
(silky dogwood)
1. ***Ilex verticillata***
(winterberry)
2. ***Viburnum dentatum***
(arrowwood)
3. ***Filipendula ulmaria***
(meadowsweet)
4. ***Clethra alnifolia***
(summersweet)
5. ***Onoclea sensibilis***
(sensitive fern)



Woodland Understory – Trees/Shrubs

1. *Cornus florida* (flowering dogwood)
2. *Lindera benzoin* (spicebush)
3. *Cornus racemosa* (gray dogwood)
4. *Viburnum dentatum* (arrowwood)
5. *Hamamelis virginiana* (witchhazel)



Woodland Understory - Groundcovers

1. ***Carex pennsylvanica***
(Pennsylvania sedge)

2. ***Tiarella cordifolia***
(foamflower)

3. ***Asarum canadensis***
(Canadian wild ginger)

4. ***Eurybia divaricata***
(white wood aster)

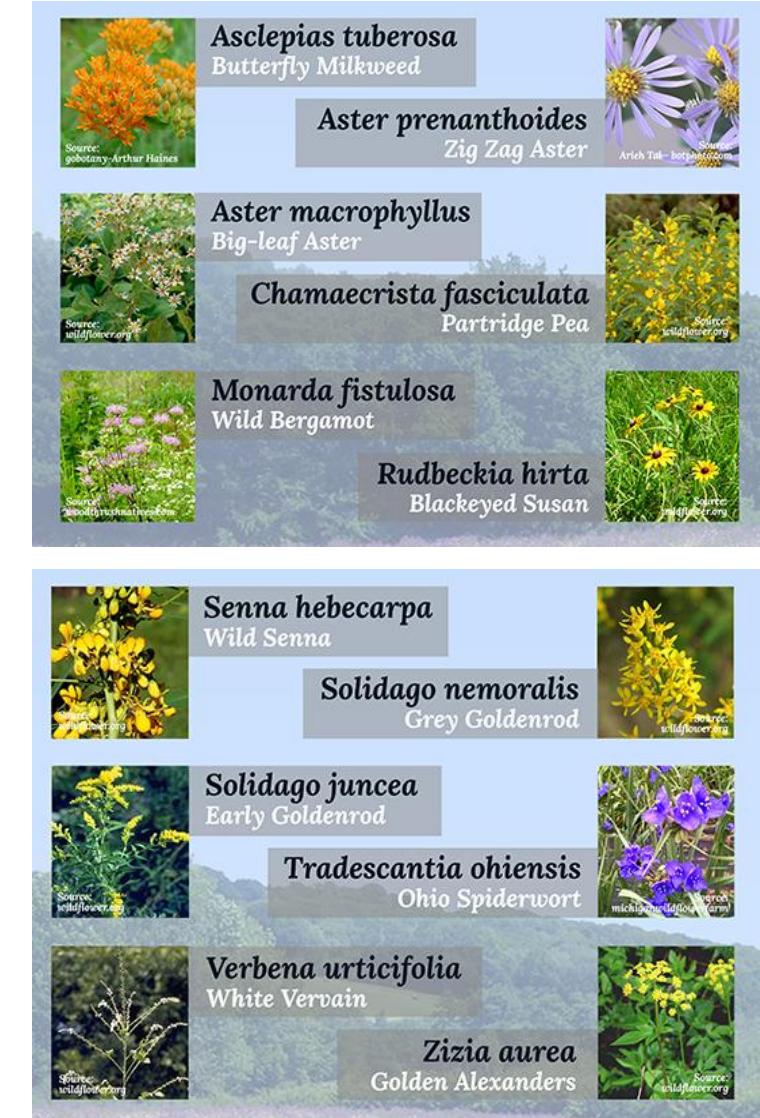
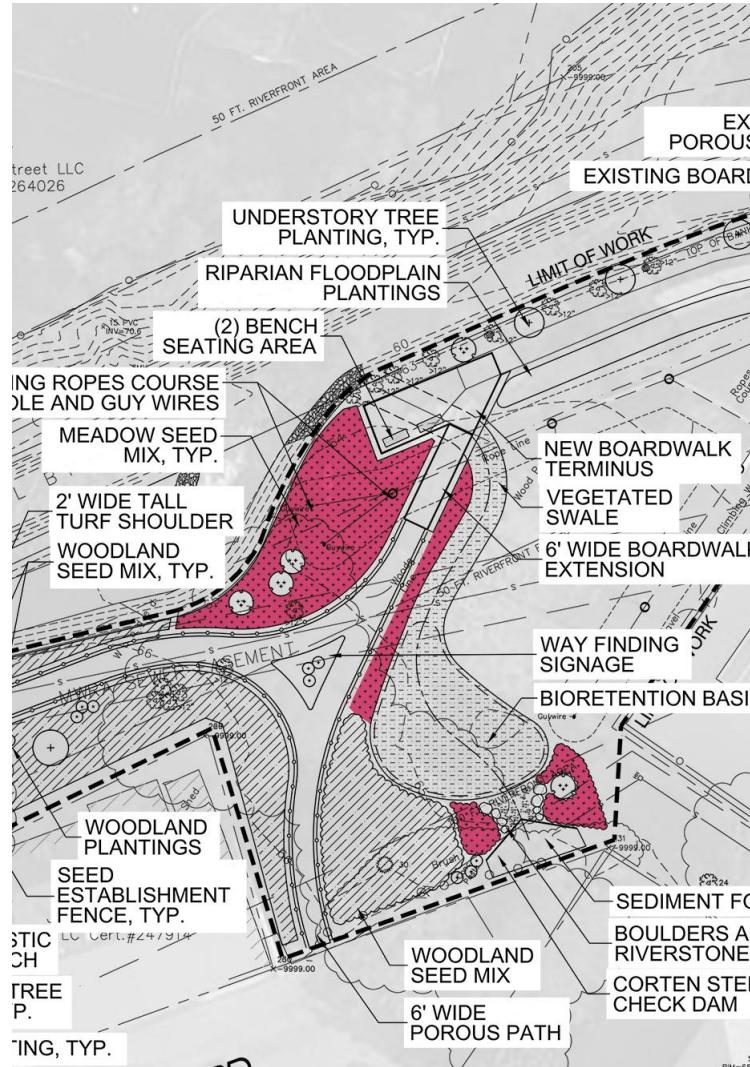
5. ***Dryopteris marginalis***
(marginal woodfern)

6. ***Pteridium aquilinum***
(bracken fern)



Grassland Community (Meadow)

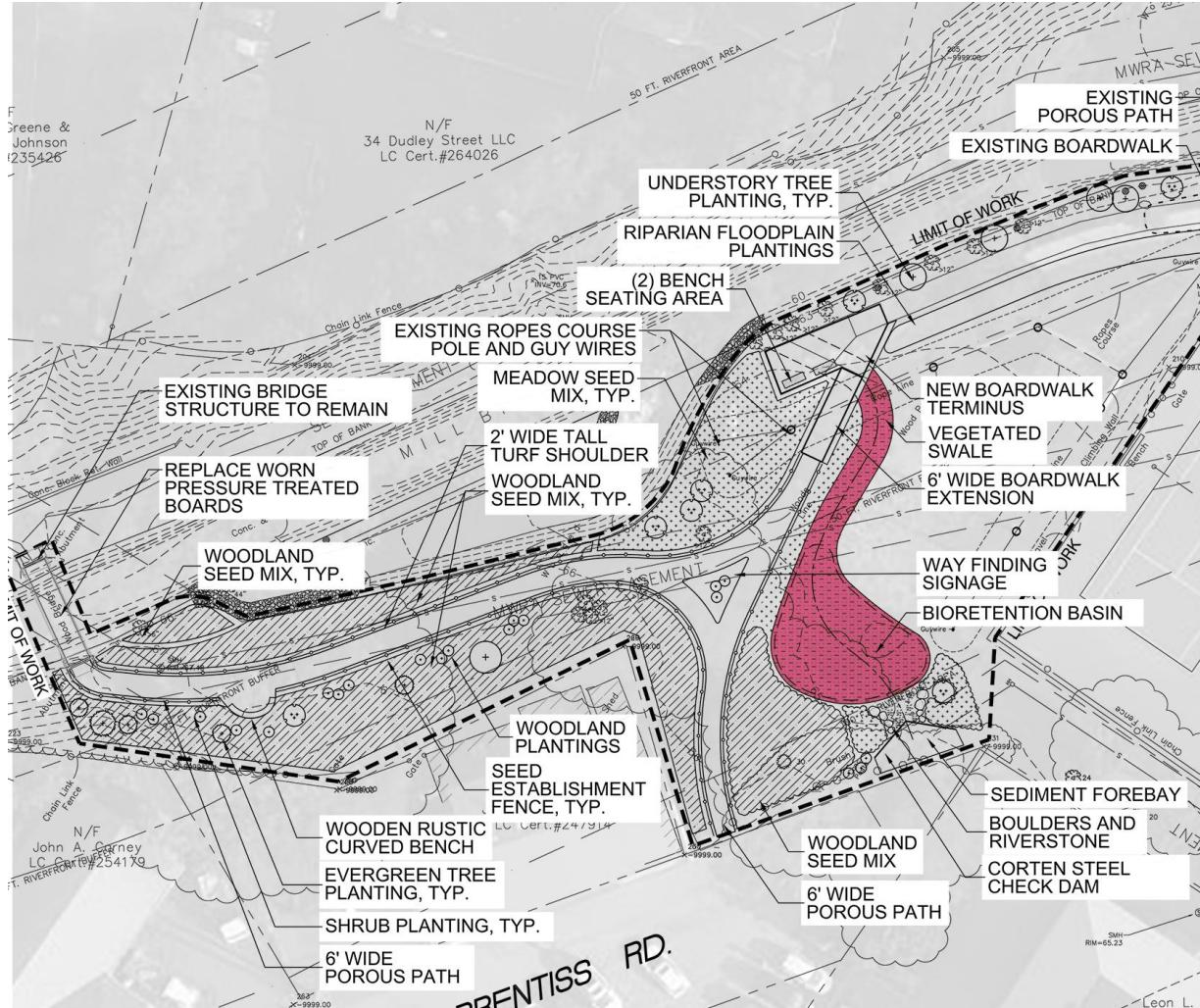
1. **Grasses and Wildflowers**
2. **Focus on Pollinator Insects, Songbirds, and Ground-nesting Birds**
3. **3' – 4' Mature Height**
4. **Mowed Annually**



Rain Garden/Bioretention Basin Functional Landscapes

Bioretention Systems:

1. Green Infrastructure Practice
2. Engineered Rain Garden (outflow device)
3. Improves Water Quality
4. Reduction in Surface Runoff and Sedimentation into Mill Brook
5. Engineered Rain Garden (outflow device)



Rain Garden/Bioretention Basin



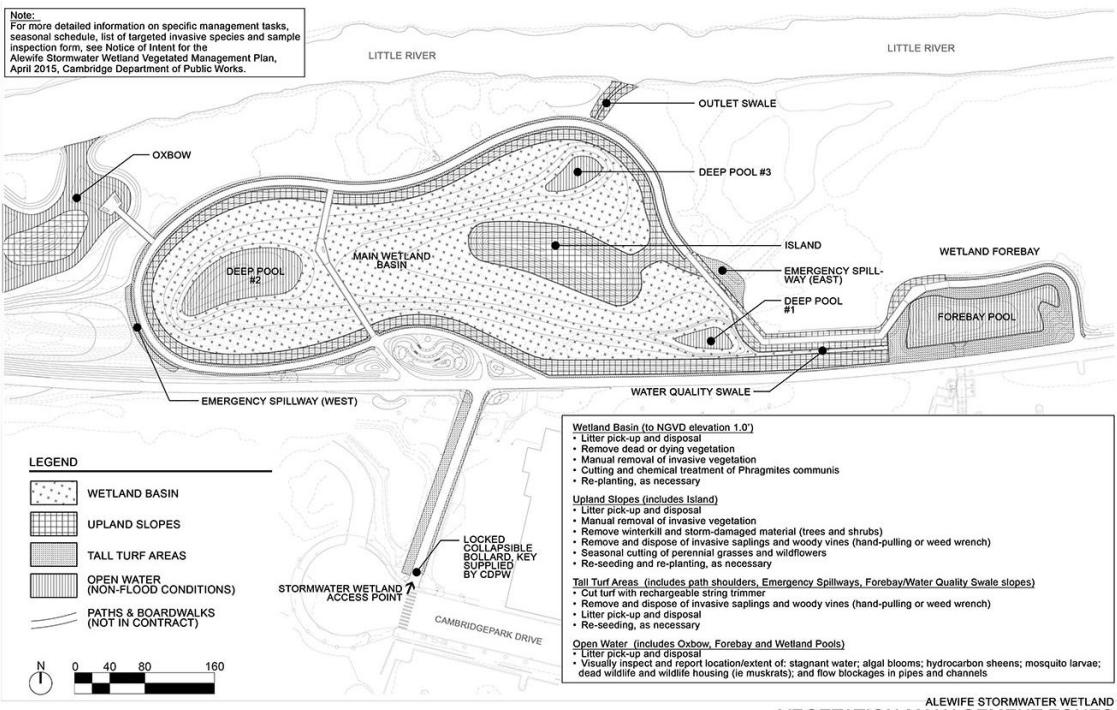
Bioretention Plant Community

1. *Juncus canadensis* (Canada rush)
2. *Panicum virgatum* (switchgrass)
3. *Schizachyrium scoparium* (little bluestem)
4. *Asclepias tuberosa* (butterfly weed)
5. *Echinacea purpurea* (purple coneflower)
6. *Rudbeckia fulgida* (black-eyed susan)



Invasive Species Management

1. Develop Vegetation Management Plan
2. Target existing Invasive Species
3. Focus on Manual and Mechanical Techniques (non-chemical)
4. Work with Volunteers, Town Recreation and Public Works for support



Next Steps

- 1. Present concept to Park & Recreation Commission for approval**
- 2. Notice of Intent Submission to Conservation Commission (July)**
- 3. Construction procurement process (August)**
- 4. Construction (September-November)**

Thank you!

Public Comment

Please send additional
comments and feedback to
Emily Sullivan at
esullivan@town.arlington.ma.us